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Soviet Denies Agca Charge on Pope Plot

MOSCOW, July 9 (AP) — Reacting to the assertion by Mehmet Ali Agca on Friday that K.G.B. agents were involved in his attack on Pope John Paul II, the Soviet Union today called the accusation "threadbare propaganda."

Mr. Agca, who tried to kill the Pope on May 13, 1981, in St. Peter's Square, made his charge that the K.G.B. and the Bulgarian intelligence service were involved in the attempt as he shouted answers to reporters' questions on Friday after being questioned by the police in another case.

The official press agency Tass said "incontrovertible evidence" proved that charges of Soviet bloc involvement were "nothing more than absurd insinuations." It did not say what evidence it meant.

Tass mentioned Mr. Agca's statement only in passing and said Italian investigation of previous allegations of Bulgarian involvement "has shown that there are absolutely no facts to bear out, directly or indirectly, the socialist countries' complicity in the heinous crime."

Tass Criticizes Western Press

Rather than dealing directly with Mr. Agca's charge, Tass criticized Western news agencies, accusing them of playing into the hands of "ideological saboteurs." It said the saboteurs needed Mr. Agca's charges "to prevent world public attention from focusing on the true organizers and inspirers of acts of terrorism, who are closely linked with neo-fascist circles and the American C.I.A., which, as has been proved conclusively, has sponsored the fabrication about socialist countries' complicity in the assassination attempt on Pope John Paul II."

Mr. Agca made his accusation while being returned to his prison, where he is serving a life sentence for the attack on the Pope. He spoke unexpectedly with reporters as he emerged from police headquarters, where he had been questioned about the kidnapping of Emanuela Orlandi, the 15-year-old daughter of a Vatican employee, on June 22.

First Direct Charge

A man who telephoned a friend of the missing girl claimed to be the abductor and demanded that Mr. Agca be released by July 20. He did not say what would happen to the girl if Mr. Agca was not freed.

Mr. Agca's statement Friday was the first by any of the principals in the case charging direct K.G.B. involvement.

The Soviet Union came under suspicion last November with the arrest of Sergei Ivanov Antonov, the Rome chief of the Bulgarian state airline, apparently on information provided by Mr. Agca. He is still in custody.

Mr. Antonov, two other Bulgarians and four Turks have been implicated in the attack on the Pope.

Tass said, "Burgeoning evidence has surfaced which, the Bulgarian news agency has emphasized, shows that the so-called 'case of Antonov' is a striking example of the subversive ideological activity which is being conducted uninterruptedly by Western intelligence and propaganda services against the countries of the socialist community." Tass did not cite the evidence.

Bulgaria Accuses Far Right

VIENNA, July 9 (Reuters) — The abduction of an Italian girl in an attempt to obtain freedom for Mehmet Ali Agca is probably the work of the extreme right, the official Bulgarian press agency said today.

Mr. Agca said on Friday that he was trained by the Soviet secret service in Bulgaria and Syria. Bulgaria has repeatedly denied involvement in the attack.

The Bulgarian dispatch from Rome said Italian newspapers think "the attempt at releasing the Turkish terrorist Agca is probably coming from his true accomplices — the extreme-right organizations which are afraid of undesired revelations" by him.